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Executive Registry
72-1442

JOHN ALEX McCONE

[redacted]

IC-72-0168

cy DCI/IRC

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March 9, 1972

Dear Dick:

Recently I had a long meeting with James Schlesinger and we discussed, among other things, the reorganization of the intelligence community. In response to his question concerning the location of the D.C.I., I insisted I had always been of the opinion that the President's principal intelligence officer should be located at CIA headquarters for the obvious reasons with which you and I are familiar.

In a letter, I also questioned the advisability of centering intelligence evaluation within the White House. In reply, he stated the following in a letter of February 24th, all of which, I believe, will interest you:

"I was delighted to receive your letter because over the years some mystery has developed regarding just what your position was on the role of the DCI. It has been stated to me that you had felt very strongly just what you indicated in your letter regarding your discussions with President Kennedy. However, it was asserted that in later years, when you were preparing to depart from Washington, that you had concluded that there were advantages in the DCI operating closer to the President. So, I am delighted to have this clarified.

"You were quite correct in your belief that Mr. Helms holds your initial view at this time -- he holds it most forcefully.

"I can fully understand your concern regarding intelligence evaluation within the White House. Quite clearly the capabilities are for the most part located elsewhere. I think that the man that has been chosen to head up this particular responsibility for Henry Kissinger, i. e., Andrew Marshall, is fully aware of the pitfalls. Consequently, whatever your conceptual concern, I expect that there should be little difficulty in practice, at least in the near term. I would be delighted to discuss this matter with you at greater length on another occasion."

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Incidentally, Schlesinger has invited further meetings to discuss A. E. C. matters and, I presume, a few intelligence matters on the side.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

The Honorable
Richard Helms
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

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